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Skim Milk Yankees Fighting: The Battle of Athens, Missouri, August 5, 1861

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neighbors, particularly during the Civil War. Confederate guerrillas targeted Germans in their raids, particularly once large numbers of German men joined the Union army. Frizzell describes in detail the 1864 Confederate raid on Lafayette County's heavily German Freedom Township, when Bloody Bill Anderson's band of bushwhackers killed many Germans in the settlement, massacring the wounded and raping women. Despite this hostility, many Germans remained in Lafayette County and maintained a strong ethnic identity as German. Furthermore, as the former slave owners struggled to adapt to a free labor force, the German farmers continued to prosper economically, although they became isolated politically within the county as Missouri took a conservative turn in the 1870s.

Independent Immigrants is an excellent example of both immigration history and local history, in that it successfully combines local detail with larger trends in international migration. Frizzell recreates the immigrants' world, both in Hanover and in Missouri, in impressive detail, while never losing sight of his larger arguments regarding the causes of migration. Frizzell also makes an important contribution to the literature on the participation of midwestern immigrants in the Civil War. He argues against the position that the Civil War served as an Americanizing influence for immigrants, demonstrating that the Concordia Germans maintained their ethnic identity throughout the nineteenth century. He argues instead that the hostility the German-born faced during the war served to subordinate regional identities as Hanoverians or Westfalians to an identity as German American. He further demonstrates how this German identity varied from place to place. In Lafayette County, for example, being German meant being Protestant, living a rural life, and speaking a north German dialect. The detailed portraits Frizzell creates of individual families and migrants challenge our assumptions about the causes of German migration and shed new light on the lives these individuals led in Europe and America.

Skim Milk Yankees Fighting: The Battle of Athens, Missouri, August 5, 1861, by Jonathan K. Cooper-Wiele. Iowa City: Camp Pope Bookshop, 2007. xii, 165 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a lecturer in history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of several books on Iowa and the Civil War, including *Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull and the Civil War* (2005).

A frequent question asked of scholars of Iowa and the Civil War is: "How close did the fighting come to Iowa?" The question is answered

in Jonathan K. Cooper-Wiele's book, the first book-length study of the Battle of Athens (pronounced "Ay-thens") in Clark County in north-eastern Missouri.

The book is the result of a lifetime's fascination and study by the author, who first visited the battle site in 1962 at the age of eight and returned many times after. Cooper-Wiele's research is extensive, ranging from the standard Civil War sources to interviews with local people who are familiar with the town and the battle. The result is local history at its best, complete with fascinating participants, a good account of the brutal nature of the war in Missouri, and a thorough explanation of the author's methodology. Iowa's role, especially that of the town of Keokuk and the participation by Iowa troops in the battle, is critical and makes this book a must for Iowans.

I have published two books with Clark Kenyon's Camp Pope Bookshop and heartily endorse every word of Cooper-Wiele's praise for Kenyon's skill as an editor and publisher. He is an Iowa treasure, and this book is one more example of why.

Jesse James in Iowa, by John Koblas. St. Cloud, MN: North Star Press, 2006. xi, 211 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Peter Hoehnle is project manager, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development. His research, writing, and teaching have focused on communal societies and all aspects of Iowa history.

The story told in John Koblas's book, *Jesse James in Iowa*, is a tale of murder, thievery, and a notorious American outlaw. Koblas traces the exploits of Jesse James (1847–1882) as the outlaw's area of operation encompassed the Hawkeye State in the 1860s and 1870s.

Koblas has written prolifically on James and on western history topics primarily for a younger audience. His accounts of the James Gang's activity in Iowa are engaging and should appeal to readers who are interested in James and western lore. Copious footnotes demonstrate that he mined newspapers, court documents, memoirs, and county histories for his account, which discounts some popular misconceptions about the James Gang's activity in the state.

The chief weakness of the book is a lack of focus. A lengthy chapter is devoted to the so-called Honey War between Iowa and Missouri in 1839. What impact that dispute had on James and company is not explained; the event appears to be included simply because it makes for a good story. Until bound by the strict chronology of James's robberies in Iowa, Koblas wanders through Iowa and Missouri history,